

Leo Barber
10 Benning St # 132
West Lebanon, NH 03784-3402

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CitizenLetter®

An urgent message from a concerned citizen

NHTSA -05-22223-1434

November 4, 2005

The Honorable Norman Mineta
Department of Transportation
400 7th St., SW
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Mineta,

I am writing to urge you to tighten the Bush administration's proposed fuel-economy standards and compel automakers to build fuel-efficient trucks and SUVs.

Events of the past few months have rendered the administration's new mileage standards obsolete -- if not downright ridiculous. Gas prices have soared to all-time highs and yet the president actually proposes to weaken fuel-efficiency standards for gas-guzzling trucks and SUVs -- and to exempt dinosaurs like the 8,600-pound Hummer from standards altogether.

It's time for Bush to stop listening to his auto-industry cronies and pay attention to the needs of the public. People want fuel-efficient cars. That's why sales of U.S.-made SUVs are off up to 50%, while Asian economy models are seeing double-digit sales increases.

By placing the lowest standards on the heaviest vehicles, the new fuel-economy rules encourage automakers to build bigger trucks. I urge you to raise mileage standards for all vehicles and compel automakers to build the fuel-efficient cars and trucks Americans deserve. Please tell me how you intend to address this important issue.

Sincerely,

Leo Barber

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LEO OF TRANSPORTATION
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